
REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated July 1, 2004 (Paper No. 5). By this communication, claims 1, 5-9, 11-14, and 16-25 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the underlying subject matter. In addition, claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 1. Support for the changes to claim 2 can be found variously throughout the specification and claims, for example, in original claim 1. Further claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the elements of base claims 1, 5, and 9. Support for the changes to claim 10 can be found variously throughout the specification and claims, for example, in original claims 1, 5, and 9. Still further, claim 15 has been amended to incorporate the elements of base claims 1 and 14. Support for the changes to claim 15 can be found variously throughout the specification and claims, for example, in original claims 1 and 14. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-4, 10, and 15 are pending where claims 2, 10, and 15 are independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-4, 10 and 15 contain allowable subject. As discussed below, Applicant has placed claims 2, 10, and 15 in independent form. Accordingly, claims 2-4, 10, and 15 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 5-9, 11-14, and 16-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by *Yonekubo*, United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0001431. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claims 1, 5-9, 11-14, and 16-25 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejection of these claims is moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 5-9, 11-14, and 16-25 under §102 be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 2-4, 10, and 15 were objected to for being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and identified as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant has

amended claim 2 to incorporate the elements previously recited in base claim 1. Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 10, to incorporate the elements previously recited in base claims 1, 5, and 9. Further, Applicant has amended claim 15 to incorporate the elements previously recited in base claims 1 and 14. Claims 2, 10, and 15 are now in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 2, 10, and 15 be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 2. By virtue of this dependency, Applicant submits that claims 3 and 4 are allowable for at least the same reasons given above with respect to claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claims 3 and 4 be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

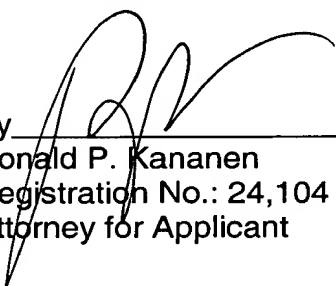
Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 10, and 15 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application. In the event the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for placing the application in even better form, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SON-2128 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Enclosure(s): Information Disclosure Statement
 Form PTO/SB/08A
 Two (2) cited references

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